

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Wednesday, October 2, 1943
6:10 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: 50th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia

DET. LINDEN TO BEAN
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGING
NOTES & RECORDS
INFORMATION S.O. 12356
SEC 1/4

BY W. J. Rostow ON 5-1-93

On October 18, fifty years ago, Masaryk presented Woodrow Wilson with Czechoslovakia's Declaration of Independence, issued that day by the Czechoslovak Provisional Government. The document was formally proclaimed in Washington eight days later. The Czechoslovak National Council is having a series of commemorative meetings in Washington this year, and has requested the opportunity to call on you on October 18, 19 or 20 -- preferably October 18 (their letter is at Tab A).

We have been in touch with the Council, and they tell us the ceremony would consist of a presentation of two leatherbound books with photographs of the Czech and Slovak lands. There would be brief general remarks about Masaryk, Woodrow Wilson and America's role in Czechoslovak independence 50 years ago.

The Czechoslovak National Council unites almost all of the established Czechoslovak organizations in this country (the main exception being some Slovak separatists).

The State Department believes it would be appropriate for you to receive this group. These are Americans of Czechoslovak descent -- not emigres. America's role in the founding of Czechoslovakia and the fact that its independence was declared in this country are unique. The occasion would provide an opportunity to recall America's attachment to Wilsonian principles of freedom and self-determination and indicate America's sympathy for Czechoslovakia in a non-political and American setting.

W. J. Rostow

Speak to Jim Jones tentatively about a time _____

No ✓

Speak to me _____

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TRANSMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT BY FILE